

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 28, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Lawrence Puzon Batan was sentenced today in federal district court in San Diego by the Honorable Barry Ted Moskowitz to serve 120 months in custody, for charges arising from the robbery of a San Diego area bank. Batan had earlier pleaded guilty to brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a robbery of a branch of the Union Bank of California. Judge Moskowitz also ordered that Batan serve a 4-year term of supervised release following his release from prison and to pay restitution to the bank in the amount of \$6,209.00.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Alessandra P. Serano, who prosecuted the case, in connection with his guilty plea Batan admitted that he robbed the Union Bank of California located in the Ralph's grocery store in Chula Vista on March 2, 2001, using a 40-caliber handgun. During the bank robbery, Batan wore a motorcycle helmet and sunglasses when he approached the victim teller and handed the teller a note which read: "Don't be a hero. I'm listening to a scanner. 20's, 50's, 100's. No dye packs!" While trying to

escape, Batan shot at the rear door of the store leaving spent shell casings on the ground. Batan later threw the helmet in a ravine and drove off.

Batan was not arrested until May 2005 when fingerprints recovered from the discarded motorcycle helmet matched fingerprints taken from Batan after he had been convicted of a drug trafficking offense in 2004.

DEFENDANT

LAWRENCE PUZON BATAN

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c) (Use of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Crime of Violence)

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Chula Vista Police Department